

6/17/68

Dear Anne,

Got little snowed under a pile of long letters so I'll make immediate if brief reply to your overdue and welcome note of 6/14. Beginning with congratulations on your academic achievements.

I've been moving around a fair amount lately, less than I should and more than I can afford to, for we stay broke and debt-saddled. I should be in New Orleans now, and I should have gone over and added to the fifth book, written since September, and I should do so many other things that I cannot though I never stop. It does not console when I tell myself that I'm but one man and that I do more than few can hope to -and that I'm 53 and weary. There is that much to do, and it isn't being done. I remember German 1934 and fear Orwell 1984.

Perhaps it is the reaction to the latest assassination, one I had long predicted, that sets in late, perhaps an afternoon of relaxation yesterday, an unusual and pleasant event. Perhaps it is a kind of depression that in this great and wealthy country I have to carry on such work with no meaningful help, no money from those who could so easily afford to help, and so much that money is required for. Like plane fare. Wonderful about your son and Panam, by the way. Don't fret about Cleveland and distance. Next may be Calcutta. I've never been invited to speak in Cleveland, but if I am I'll look him up.

It is never possible to know when Lane is fabricating, for he does often. Customarily he steals, and the case you cite involves some of this. Twice when I was working in New Orleans (Lane has never done any work there, even though he has taken up residence there to capitalize on Garrison) Jim told me there was an emissary of Bobby K there. He never said that the man was sent to him, never told me he had gotten the message Mark alleges. He is the man with whom Bobby roomed in college. The first time, which was back in November, as I recall, I made a suggestion to Jim about his comments about Bobby, suggesting that he refrain from the kinds of criticisms he was making and he took the advice. Now about the guns between Bobby and the Presidency, that is mine. The story is this: About two months ago a man I know to have been a Bobby man was in New Orleans in business. He stayed at the motel I was in. I chided him about the transparent lies Bobby had told in California, about having seen all there is in the Archives, and asked why. He then told me that "Bobby feels there are already too many guns between him and the White House" (implication CIA guns) and that Bobby was buying time. I think it is likely he is the source of Mark's probably but customary misrepresentation, for he said that as President Bobby would do something. It has been my belief that were he President his position would be intolerable without a real investigation. This, to me, once he had given approval to the Warren Report, was his death warrant, and I so indicated to his friend in New Orleans. In fact, yesterday I dug out a letter I wrote his west-coast chieftain in January in which I said exactly that. He was such an effective spokesman against the policies of the military-industrial complex that, if he had to be killed, the sooner he was the less damage he'd do. All the recent assassinations are consistent in end.

Delay in the Clay Shaw case is because federal authority has the raw power and exercises it. Garrison has been ready since September. There will be one dodge and delay after another until justice is frustrated, if the government can accomplish it. And they will try and they are resourceful and they have power.

So, we all have to try and stop this, as the Germans did not with Hitler. Excuse the haste. Hope you can decipher the typos. Best look from both,